

spiral, oblong 0.5-0.8 x 0.1-0.3 cm, thick; mid-nerve impressed above, prominent below, lateral nerves obscure, base attenuate, apex obtuse or acute, subsessile. Flowers hermaphrodite, in axillary fascicles. Perianth rose. Nutlets strongly trigonous, with persistent style.

Common weed of marshy places.

**Fl. & Fr.:** November-April.

**Specimen examined:** North Andaman, Mohanpur:

CSR 2505, 8.xii.2001.

December 23, 2002

SUDHAKAR REDDY

C.B.S. DUTT

Forestry & Ecology Division,  
National Remote Sensing Agency,  
Balanagar, Hyderabad 500 037,  
Andhra Pradesh, India.

#### REFERENCES

VASUDEVA RAO, M.K. (1986): A preliminary report on the angiosperms of Andaman-Nicobar Islands. *J. Econ. Tax. Bot.* 8: 107-185.  
MATHEW, S.P. (1998): A supplementary report on the flora and vegetation of the Bay Islands, India. *J. Econ. Tax. Bot.* 22:

249-272.

REDDY, C.S., P.R.C. PRASAD, M.S.R. MURTHY & C.B.S. DUTT (IN PRESS): Census of endemic flowering plants of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *J. Econ. Tax. Bot.*

### 35. *DENDROPHTHOE FALCATA* (L.f.) ETTING. ON *COMMIPHORA WIGHTII* (ARN.) BHAND.: A NEW RECORD OF PARASITIC ASSOCIATION

*Dendrophthoe falcata* (L.f.) Etting. (Family Loranthaceae) has attracted more attention from plant scientists than any other flowering plant parasite for documentation of host range. Fischer (1926) systematically recorded 153 host plants of this partial stem parasite from southern parts of India. Since then, many enumerators have reported new hosts from time to time and eventually Fischer's list has been increased to 410. Hawksworth *et al.* (1993) presented a comprehensive list of recorded hosts for *D. falcata*. A scrutiny of the literature reveals that parasitism of *D. falcata* on *Commiphora wightii* (Arnott) Bhandari (Family Burseraceae) has not been recorded by any of the earlier enumerators; hence we record it here for the first time. *Boswellia serrata* Roxb., syn. *Commiphora gileadense* (Roxb.) Almeida, *C. caudata* (W. & A.) Engl., *C. pubescens* (W. & A.) Engl. and *Garuga pinnata* Roxb. are the 5 other known hosts from Family Burseraceae.

On a visit to a herbal garden developed by Anoopam Mission, a socio-religious institution, located at Mogri village,

near Anand, in central Gujarat, the senior author noted a few individuals of this common parasite growing on a guggul (*Commiphora wightii*) tree, which is of medicinal importance (Photographic evidence provided by the author – Eds).

If *D. falcata* establishes its parasitic relationship with *C. wightii*, there will be added pressure on this economically important host, which is presently endangered due to over exploitation and improper methods of extracting the oleoresin. Constant monitoring of the natural populations of *C. wightii* is recommended as a preventive measure.

January 3, 2003

A.S. REDDY<sup>1</sup>

V. RAMA RAO

Department of Biosciences,  
Sardar Patel University,  
Vallabh Vidyanagar,  
Gujarat 388 120,

India.

Email: asreddy\_spu@yahoo.com

#### REFERENCES

FISCHER, C.E.C. (1926): Loranthaceae of southern Indian and their host plants. *Rec. Bot. Surv. India* 11: 159-195.

HAWKSWORTH, F.G., Y.P.S. PUNDIR, C.G. SHAW & B.W. GEILS (1993): The host range of *Dendrophthoe falcata* (L.f.) Etting. (Loranthaceae). *Indian J. Forestry* 16: 263-281.

### 36. FIRST RECORD OF *CLATHRUS DELICATUS* BERKELEY & BROOME 1873 FROM SANJAY GANDHI NATIONAL PARK, MUMBAI

In the monsoon of July 1996, during a survey on Owl moths (*Othreis* spp.), I came across a small shuttlecock-shaped fungus growing among the rocks, in the wooded areas of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in Mumbai,

Maharashtra State, India. I could not identify it, but sent colour photographs to the Smithsonian Institution, USA for identification. The photographs were then forwarded to Dr. David Farr at the National Fungus Collection in Beltsville,

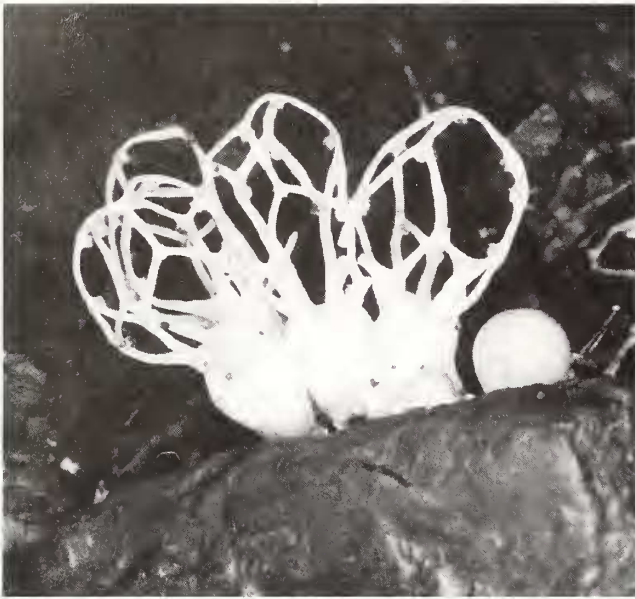


Fig. 1: A large fruiting colony of *Clathrus delicatus*

Maryland, USA, who sent them to Dr. Orson Miller Jr. at Virginia Tech University for identification. Finally, on May 14, 1998, Dr. Miller identified the fungus as *Clathrus delicatus* Berkeley & Broome, a rare species described from Sri Lanka (Berkeley and Broome 1875). Dr. Miller also advised me to collect fresh specimens and dry them for detailed examination. In 2000, we studied the specimens in his laboratory and confirmed that they were *Clathrus delicatus*. This is the second record in India and that too after 64 years. The only record of this species in India is from Mysore in 1932 by

Narasimhan. The description of the specimen matches with that of Dring (1980); Petch (1908) and Fischer (1890-1900).

In 1997 and 1998, all my efforts to locate the fungus failed. However, in 1999, I managed to locate a large fruiting colony on a pile of rotting bamboo logs, from which I collected specimens, including the matured receptacle and buds (Fig. 1). Some specimens were also preserved in 70% formaldehyde. I also managed to collect the insects, which seem to be responsible for fertilisation of this fungus, the species of which could not be identified.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I gratefully acknowledge the guidance provided by Dr. Orson Miller, Professor of Botany and Curator of Fungi, Department of Biology, Virginia Tech University, USA for identifying the fungus. I also express my gratitude to Dr. Miller and Mrs. Hope Miller for their warm hospitality during my stay in USA. I am grateful to Dr. Cathie Aime for providing relevant literature.

I am grateful to the Smithsonian Institution and Dr. David Farr, National Fungus Collections in Beltsville, Maryland for help in identification, and Ms. Priti Sawant, BNHS for field studies.

January 22, 2003

DEEPAK APTE

Bombay Natural History Society,  
Hornbill House, Mumbai 400 023,  
Maharashtra, India.

Email: bnhs\_conservation@vsnl.net

#### REFERENCES

- BERKELEY REV. M.J. E.L.S. & C.E. BROOME, ESQ, F.L.S. (1875): Enumeration of the Fungi of Ceylon. Part II, containing the remainder of the Hymenomycetes, with the remaining established tribes of Fungi. *Journ. Linnaean Soc., London, Botany XIV*: 29-139.
- DRING, D.M. (1980): Contributions towards a rational arrangement of the Clathraceae. *Kew Bull.* 35(1): 1-96.
- FISCHER, ED. (1890-1900): Untersuchungen zur Vergleichenden Entwicklungsgeschichte und Systematik der Phalloideen, Mit 6 Tafeln und mehreren Holzschnittenetch.
- NARASIMHAN, M.J. (1932): The Phalloideae of Mysore. *Journ. Indian Botanical Survey II*: 248-254.
- PETCH, T. (1908): The Phalloideae of Ceylon. *Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Peradeniya 4(4)*: 139-182.

### 37. STUDIES ON THE SEASONAL ASPECTS OF ANGIOSPERMIC WALL VEGETATION OF KHARGONE AND ITS SUBURBS

Our knowledge of the wall flora is limited both at national and international levels (Willis *et al.* 1893; Salisbury 1920; Fitter 1945; Rishbeth 1948; Ghosh 1960 and Varshney 1971). Earlier the flora of this tract has been studied by Shastri (1977), but no information on the wall flora of this area is available till date. Wall vegetation may serve as basic knowledge for artificial habitats (Sahu 1984); hence the present communication attempts to study the wall vegetation of

Khargone and its suburbs in different seasons of the year.

Khargone city (21° 45' N, 75° 30' E; 250.38 m above msl) is headquarter of the West Nimar district of Madhya Pradesh. It is one of the tribal districts of the state, and more than 30 percent of the population belongs to tribal communities (Bhilala, Korki, Manka and Barela). Biogeographically it is a part of central India. This area enjoys a variety of habitat conditions and is also thickly populated. In the past three